Bewley, Benjamin Arthur

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

November IIth, I9I4.

President R.A.Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr.President;

I beg to recommend the following men for appointment as Class Assistants in Biology for the present session;

W.H.T.Baillie,B.A.	$I40.00
H.DeW.Ball,M.B.	80.00
G.A.Davis,B.A.	60.00
J.A.Dickson,B.A.	60.00
L.O.C.Skeeles,B.A.,M.B.	I80.00
N.O.Thomas,B.A.	80.00
O.C.J.Withrow,M.B.	80.00

I would also like to have Mr.John Storr, 455 Manning Ave.,appointed as Temporary Preparator,for two months,at $50.00 per month,service to begin on appointment. The payment should be made out of the sum set aside for the new preparator Mr.E.Browning,no part of which has yet been used.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Brawley.

January 2nd, 1915.

Professor Bensley

Biological Building

University of Toronto

Dear Dr Bensley:

I am sorry that Mr John Storr has not been receiving the payment for his services for the last two months. I will look into this on my return from Goderich on Tuesday and have it attended to.

I will also endeavour to meet your wishes with regard to the transfer of Mr Browning's salary to the Departmental funds.

Yours very truly,

President.

January 6th, 1915

Professor Bensley,

Biological Building,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor Bensley:

In answer to your letter of December 31st I may say that after consultation with the Bursar it does not seem to be advisable to transfer the amount of Mr. Browning's salary to the departmental funds, but that the appointment of Mr. Storr may be temporarily continued on the basis suggested by you until further notice. If this meets with your approval I will have it attended to at the next meeting of the Board ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

April 12th, 1915.

President R.A.Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr.President;

Mr.A.R.Cooper, Demonstrator in this Department, has informed that he will not desire re-appointment for next session, since he has been appointed to a Fellowship in the University of Illinois.

As I have indicated once or twice previously, he has had major charge of certain courses, though at small salary, and his withdrawal is accordingly serious, much more so indeed than that of Mr.Coventry.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Brusley.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

May 12th, 1915.

President R.A.Falconer,
University of Toronto.

Dear Mr.President;

Miss Mary Tucker, one of our last year's graduates who has been doing M.A. work in Botany, has come to me in a very distressed condition of mind, stating that she feels she has not received fair treatment in an examination conducted by the Botanical Staff on the material of her thesis. I understand that Professor Faull has written her in a kindly way asking her to call and discuss the matter, but that she feels her position so keenly that she has declined to do so. For this reason, and also because it has not been the custom to consult me with reference to these examinations, I thought she had better lay the matter before you and have advised her accordingly. I think it likely that there has been a misunderstanding which can be cleared up. Personally I would much regret having her leave the institution with the impression that there is any personal element in our method of examination.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Bensley

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

June IIth,1915.

President R.A.Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr.President;

I was informed this morning by the Registrar that Professor Howe had declined to recommend that Miss Tucker should receive an Honor degree,and further that it was considered unnecessary to call another meeting of the committee appointed by the Arts Council to consider her case. Since I expect to be absent from the city for a little time,Ithought I had better write you,because I dissent from this view,and wish to have an opportunity of presenting my reasons.

With reference to Professor Howe,I wish to point out that we have had his opinion expressed in at least three ways;

(I) His statement made at the time of examination that the work was better than that of many Ph.D. students.

(2) His attitude in returning a report blank with his signature so that Professors Faull and Thomson could fill it in.

(3) His opinion expressed after reference to him by the committee that he would not recommend an Honor degree.

I am quite sure that Professor Faull's motive in insisting so strongly that the matter be referred to Professor Howe was of the same nature as that in the minds of other members of the committee,namely,that we culd not deal ~~further~~ with the matter without obtaining his opinion further,in view of the fact that the candidate was under his supervision during the progress of her work. This,however, does not prevent me from forming my own conclusion,namely,that the net result is un-

satisfactory.

I would call your attention to what I believe to be the case, that the members of the committee, though they wished to have the matter referred to Professor Howe, had no intention that the case should be disposed of in this way. It appears to me peculiar that after the matter had been referred to the committee an intention should be expressed of leaving it entirely to the decision of one who was primarily concerned with the report, on the basis of which the committee was actually appointed, or that in any case the matter should be taken out of the hands of the committee without giving the members an opportunity of expressing their opinion. I would point out that though I appreciate the importance of giving full consideration to Professor Howe, the leaving of a decision to one examiner is clearly not the intention of the Calendar regulations, and if I understood correctly, Professor Faull stated to the committee that he was unable to form a conclusion as to what the candidates standing should be.

So far as Miss Tucker is concerned, I feel quite certain that personalities have played a part not only during examination, but also previously, and I regret also in connection with her attempt to ask the University for consideration, but I think that no combination of such elements should deter us in discharging a duty towards a candidate.

This candidate has had a splendid record in the University, I believe also in the Faculty of Education, and has been one of our best demonstrators in this Department. This does not infer that she would be successful in research, but the standing now recommended for her at least is flatly contradictory and inconsistent with her abil-

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ity as indicated otherwise.

It is quite evident that owing to the authority possessed by the University, any oral examination may take such a course that the examiners may make any comments they wish, but a candidate may not reply. This confers an obligation to conduct our examinations so that the margin of error if any should be on the side of the candidate and the balance of courtesy with ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Bensley

June 14th, 1915

Professor R. A. Bensley,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor Bensley:

In view of the attitude that you take towards Professor Howe's letter I think that the only possible procedure for us is to have another meeting of the committee when you return to the city. It is however an extremely difficult matter for any member of the staff to challenge the opinion of an Examiner unless he has had the opportunity of forming an independent judgment as to the merits of the candidate. From the conversation that we had at the Committee I came to the opinion that one one except Professor Faull and Dr. Howe really knew enough about the work of Miss Tucker to be able to say whether or not she should have an honours degree, but in order that no injustice may be done her and that those who take the view that there may possibly be some miscarriage of the fair thing, I will ask the committee to meet again. Will you please let me know when you will be back in town ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.